

Minutes  
Indiana Recycling Market Development Board (RMDB)  
Indianapolis Shadeland Office  
2525 N. Shadeland Ave.  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46219  
Thursday, March 12, 2020

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Members present: Chairman Bruce Burrow, Jie Chen, Clay Turner, Matt Gratz, Tara Wessler-Henry, Terry Guerin, Harvey Abramowitz, and Kelly Weger

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members: Julia Wickard (IDEM), Representative Sue Errington

IDEM staff included: Pat Daniel, Deanna Garner, Alison Taylor, Erik England, James (Michael) French, and Tom Leas

Other: Allyson Mitchel, IRC; Debbie Hackman, Jackson County Recycling District; Liang Tao, Townsend Solutions; Cliff Lee, Townsend Solutions; Celeste Sutter, SESCO Group; Stephanie Deckard, SESCO Group; Darren Reese, SESCO Group; Neil Samahon, Opportunity Enterprises; Dan Graeter, GT Environmental; Marla Cherney, IRC; Martin Seaman, RRS

Chairman Bruce Burrow called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE TRANSCRIPT AND SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2019 RMDB MEETING**

The transcript and summary for the RMDB meeting held on November 7, 2019 was approved.

**3. IDEM UPDATE**

Julia Wickard shared IDEM's Office of Program Support (OPS) current efforts including:

- Hat's off to Alison Taylor for her work on the Community Recycling Grant Program. The first round of grants opened last fall and IDEM was able to fund 35 out of the 40 grant applications; 15 for recycling bins, 12 education and outreach, 8 grant for equipment and one for a recycled content playground surface. The average grant amount was around \$16,000.
- Governor's Awards deadline of April 5, 2020

Other work by IDEM Ms. Wickard shared includes:

- VW Mitigation Trust Fund for electric vehicle charging stations
- Work with Arcelor-Mittol, engaged efforts in Northwest IN in regard to spills

Julia then introduced Erik England, and other IDEM OPS staff, Deanna Garner, Tom Leas, Pat Daniel, and Alison Taylor. Additionally:

- Presented certificate of appreciation to Clay Turner for serving as RMDB member
- Hoping to hear about new appointees for RMDB

#### **4. RMDP FINANCE UPDATE**

Ms. Garner provided an overview of the RMDP Funding source provided by IDEM's Chief of Finance.

FY2019 RPAF Tipping Fees \$2,352,691

FY2020 RPAF Tipping Fees thru 12/31/19 \$1,284,316

Fund Balance as of 12/31/19 \$13,670,638

#### **5. STATUS UPDATE OF EXISTING GRANTS**

Ms. Garner continued to provide finance updates in combination with the status of existing grants in FY 2019.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Amount Distributed</b>
AgRecycle (Lamb Farms)	\$125,000	\$125,000
Cox Recycling Company	\$120,000	\$120,000
Dearborn County SWMD	\$24,251	\$23,447
ERI	\$124,112	\$0
Gibson County SWMD	\$10,000	\$8,342
Heritage Hills High School	\$6,677	\$6,677
IQ Fibers LLC	\$125,000	\$0
Perry Co. Recycling Management	\$16,340	\$16,340
Plastic Recycling	\$192,336	\$192,336
PMG Tree Care and Landscape	\$120,000	\$54,000
Royal Interpack	\$117,082	\$0
Vermillion County	\$19,201	\$12,699
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$558,841</b>

Ms. Garner provided a table that listed the grantees' awarded dollars, and dollar amounts distributed to each grantee. She explained ERI's project was still in progress and their grant agreement did not expire until June. IQ Fibers had asked for a 6 month extension to the grant agreement and an amendment was being processed. Royal Interpack was finalizing their project and preparing to submit paperwork for reimbursement. PMG Tree Care still needed to purchase another piece of equipment. All other grantees had completed their projects successfully.

#### **6. CONSIDERATION OF RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY GRANT PROPOSALS**

The board asked each representative from the submitted proposals to the podium to discuss their proposal and answer any questions they board had.

- RRS: Representative Mary Seaman, Principal and Executive Vice President
  - o The company has experience with Re-TRAC, completed economic impact studies in other states, and is goal driven towards agency action items from data collection.
  - o They have developed a Landfill Waste Characterization tool which can be used to update MSW waste characterization studies.
  - o Also, previous work with the Southeast Recycling Development Council has involved recycling economic impacts studies using Implan software.
- Townsend Solutions: Clifford Lee, President and Dr. Liang Tao, Director
  - o The company has much experience in market research for plastics and data analysis for the chemical industry. Emphasis has been on industrial applications. This project would be a new effort in working with a state government.
  - o Partnered with Texas A&M University (40 graduate students) to do the project.
  - o Project timeline is 9 months but indicated more time could be useful.

Chairman Burrow emphasized to all applicants that the information that the board is asking for in the study requires significant data collection and analysis in regard to collectors, processors, and end-users of recyclables in the state. Mr. Guerin expressed that “boiler plate info” is a start but “boots on the ground” provides the needed depth of analysis for local data.

Mr. Leas further indicated robust data collection is available from Re-TRAC recycling activity reports for shipments of recyclables from recycler facilities, but need data about collection side programs – curbside and drop-offs. Also, the infrastructure impact of recyclables from the commercial/institutional/industrial sectors needs to be evaluated and compared with the collection of recyclables from the residential side. Lastly, the study needs to identify Indiana’s manufacturers and determine circular economy metrics. How much recyclables are they using? What percent of recyclables come from Indiana?

- SESCO Group: Darren Reese, President
  - o The company specializes in environmental management and compliance. Experience includes remediation projects, boots on the ground data collection, maintain and renew relationships; and training for college students.
  - o The project is in partnership with the Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute and Indiana University O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs.
  - o The project has a 21 month suggested timeframe which takes into account the academic calendar for incorporating a Capstone project at the O’Neill School to leverage the project results.
- Purdue University: Hua Cai, Professor
  - o The Purdue research team is well qualified in waste management and circular economy research. Recent work has collected and analyzed data on recycling collection infrastructure for a study in a ten county region by the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN).
  - o Hybrid approach for project data consists of top-down input-output models for economic impact and bottom-up analysis for the infrastructure.
  - o Project partner includes Environmental Research & Educational Foundation (EREF).

- GT Environmental: Daniel Graeter, Senior Manager
  - o The company has completed solid waste plans in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. They have experience with getting local input and coordinating stakeholder involvement.
  - o Partners/stakeholder input includes Re-TRAC Connect, Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts, Indiana Recycling Coalition, IUPUI, and the IU, The Public Policy Institute (PPI).
  - o The PPI will use Implan software to conduct the economic impacts.

The board performed a roll call vote to fund GT Environment \$112,000.00 to conduct a statewide study of Indiana's recycling infrastructure and economic impact. Motion carried.

## **7. 2020 (FISCAL YEAR 2021) GRANT ROUND DISCUSSION**

Ms. Garner provided drafts and a summary of the process changes to the 2020 grant announcement and proposal guidelines. Changes Ms. Garner discussed were changing the award date to the September board meeting, changing funding amount to grantees to a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$500,000, and removing schools from eligibility. The board agreed to the edits of the grant announcement and proposal guidelines, the new award date, and new funding amounts. However, the board did not want to remove any entities from eligibility. The board voted to approve the above agreed upon changes. Motion carried.

## **8. OTHER**

Opportunity Enterprises, Inc. (OE), who received grant funding in November of 2019, spoke to the board about changing their grant project from a new baler, to a sorting line to be able to more efficiently manage their operation. OE was awarded \$60,050, the new proposal request was for \$50,280. The board approved the new proposal for the amount of \$50,280.

Ms. Garner asked IDEM legal representative Michael French to present information on creating a policy to allow for 2-3 members of the board to attend the quarterly public board meetings electronically. A policy would need to be written and approved by the board at the next meeting before it could be implemented. The board moved to create the policy. The motion carried.

Next meeting will be May 7, 2020. The board agreed they would like to host it remotely to include a tour of past grantee's facility.

## **9. ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made. The meeting concluded at 12:02 pm